



Austin City Council MINUTES

For SPECIAL CALLED MEETING - SEPTEMBER 3, 1986 - 9:00 A.M.

Council Chambers, 307 West Second Street, Austin, Texas

City Council

Frank C. Cooksey
Mayor

John Treviño, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tem

Council Members
Mark Rose
Smoot Carl-Mitchell
Sally Shipman
George Humphrey
Charles E. Urdy

Jorge Carrasco
City Manager

Elden Aldridge
City Clerk

Memorandum To:

Mayor Cooksey called to order the special called meeting of the Council, noting the presence of all Councilmembers. The Mayor announced the purpose of the meeting was to hold public hearings on social and cultural agencies.

Norman Kieke discussed OSHA. Reverend John Korchmeier asked Council to not cut human services. Rev. Carl Siegenthaler said the sales tax base should be broadened. Lillian Pearson spoke about support for MH/MR. John Erubaker also discussed MH/MR. Judy Yudoff and Pam Wetzel talked. The Rape Crisis Center and Family Elder Care was discussed. Mary Kay Harris of Community Bound spoke. Ginny Ballard represented Parents Anonymous. George Stone spoke for Austin Tenants Council; Mary McCarthy and Arlene Lyons wanted money for refugees. Joy Locke represented YWCA; Susan Lorenzo, South Austin Youth Bureau; John Bird, Association of Retarded Citizens; Sarah Robertson, Gent's Program and Mark Murdock, Teen-Age Parent Council.

RECESS

Council recessed from 10:55 to 11:15 a.m.

After recess the public hearing continued and the following people spoke: Steven Kery and Lisa Stark Walsh for Austin Wilderness Counseling; Judy Loretta, Capital Area Food Bank; Marge Tripp, Volunteer Center; Dr. Cliff Price and Emily Adams; Kieth Pitt, Austin Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program; Nancy King, Extend-A-Care; Regina Rogoff, Legal Aid and Open Door; Mike Rush, Gent's Club; John T. Holman, Austin Allied for Mentally Ill; Phyllis Dunham, Austin Center for Battered Women; Mitch Weinan, Middle Earth; Rick Gerber, Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

RECESS

Council recessed from 11:55 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Citizens spoke as follows: Steven Schott, Planned Parenthood; Terry Gillis, Austin Families; Bob Beauman, Child and Family Service; Norman Kieke, United Cerebral Palsy; Joe Elvira, United Cerebral Palsy; Pat Pound ARCIL; Lila Cochran, Easter Seals; Patricia Habenan, United Action for Elderly; Dan Buey, Greater Austin Council on Alcoholism; John Boyle, Pebble Project regarding child abuse; Frances Johnson, Senior Sitter Service, Inc.; Mona Gonzales, South Austin Youth Services; Jesse Flores, Youth Advocacy; Betty Harris, Austin/Travis County Shelter for Infants and Children; William J. Colin, Vaughn House; Donald Zapone, Austin Child Guidance Center; Del Garcia, Child Assault Prevention Program; four people talking for University Y, gardens, resource center and Aware; Wanda Stedman, Austin Community Gardens; Linda Romero, SER; and Mike Kovak, Youth Employment Service.

RECESS

Council recessed from 2:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. When Council returned they heard citizens discuss the cultural agencies.

Speakers were: Dell Hawkins, Calidis Sound; Carol Smith Adams, Sharir Dance Company; Charles Ross, Bravo Magazine; Mary Navarro, Women and their Work; Daniel Traverso; Kathy Lowrey, Laguna Gloria Art Museum; Al Golden; Linda Hanson, Paramount Theater; Casey Draper, Ballet Austin; Jane Sibley, Austin Symphony; Nancy Inman, Austin Children's Museum; Elota Patton, Zachary Scott Theater Center; Janet Siebert, Austin Visual Arts Association; Alex Coke, Jazz; Lauris Essery, Texas Circuit; Kay Kelly, Austin Writer's League; Pat Gamboa, Ballet East Dance Theater Company; Peggy Vasquez, Ballet Austin; Dick Lillie, Austin Choral Union (Mayor read a letter from him); Vanessa Dudley, Dance Umbrella.

PRESENTATION ON STNP

Council interrupted its hearing on cultural agencies to hear the presentation of Dr. Amory Lovins on the South Texas Nuclear Project. Discussion and questions followed among members of the Council.

HEARING CONTINUED

Council continued the hearing on cultural agencies and the following people spoke: Mary McCall, Academia de Danza Balet Folklorico; Roland Salina, Academia de Danza; Pio Polido, Mexicarte; Sylvia Orozco; Catherine Goddard, Umbrellas; Randy McCall, Austin Federation of Musicians; Ellie McCalla; Equity for Umbrellas; E.T. Preston, Austin Ballet Theatre; Ramon Maldonado, LUCHA; David Santos, Meadowbrook; Hortencia Palomares, LUCHA; Jane Wells, Gladys Weintraub; Maurice Coats; Paul Hernandez, LUCHA; and Mary Kitchens representing Women and Their Work.

The following motion was made by Councilmember Shipman:
(transcript of motion)

Motion

SHIPMAN: Yes, Mayor. I would like to make a motion so that Council will have some options to evaluate when we act on the budget next week. I move that we request that the staff re-estimate the Arts Commission recommendation of August 13th, 1986 based on their revised bed tax figure of \$978,227.00 with a percentage cut from the Arts Commission recommendation that will affect each group proportionate to their scale. This should be distributed so as to have an equal effect on all groups. Included in this should be the organizations that were recognized as part of the appeal process. They should be included in the re-estimation. Secondly, I would like to request that the staff also provide an option based on the available bed tax, but utilizing the formula presented by Mr. Traverso this evening and I have a copy of that to share with the staff which would be a little.. a varying percentage allocation. And thirdly, so that Council will have an additional option, is that we formally request the Arts Commission to re-evaluate their recommendation based on the revised bed tax figure that we now have to work with. The reality.. so, based on this, Council will actually have two recommendations from the Arts Commission, a revised..well a re-estimated recommendation based on utilizing just the bed tax. We will have a re-evaluation by the Arts Commission. Finally, we are going to have to make basic policy decisions as to whether or not to extend funding for the arts beyond the available bed tax. We can not take additional monies out of the bed tax. By law we are tied to that 1% only. I believe that's a state law.

MAYOR: Yes. I asked about that this afternoon and I was given an opinion from the City Attorney's Office that we can not increase the amount. I was thinking, you know, if we could increase the amount to..by 25 cents that that would bring us home to where we want to be but no way we can do that under the law.

CARRASCO: Mayor, and Council, one additional observation that I would like to bring to your attention and the Mayor touched on this earlier this afternoon, is that the current funding procedures address situations where there can be..whenever there is more money available than has been budgeted, there's a procedure for allocating any additional revenue that might be collected over a fiscal period over and above what was estimated. But there is no procedure if you are dealing with a situation that might involve having less money available at the end of the fiscal period than had been projected. This sets up a potentially problematic situation for you during the course of the next fiscal year. One thing that the Council may want to consider is how to deal with that possible situation so that there is an expectation in advance of what would happen. And obviously the bottom line objective would be to make sure everyone understands that no more money than is actually available could be provided during

the fiscal period. We can, of course, also work on some options for you to consider, but that is..particularly given the instability of these revenue sources, something you ought to consider before finally adopting the budget.

SHIPMAN: I think that would be very helpful to have that information from the Arts Commission..just what you've just said for us..also I want to clearly state that when the Arts Commission re-evaluates their recommendations, we are not to decrease minority funding because it is already so low. There's just not anything there to work with and that's got to be a clear policy statement from the City Council....the motion.

TREVINO: I'll second the motion.

Motion passed by a vote of 4-0 with Councilmembers Humphrey, Rose and Urdy not present in the Council Chamber.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned its meeting at 7:55 p.m.